

means for controlling the transmission of a blood pump control signal from the adaptor pod to the blood pump over the data line.

24. The adaptor pod of claim 23, wherein the blood pump control signal defines a desired pump speed for the blood pump.

25. The adaptor pod of claim 23, wherein the blood pump control signal defines a mode of operation for the blood pump.

26. The adaptor pod of claim 23, wherein the blood pump is a centrifugal pump.

27. The adaptor pod of claim 23, wherein the blood pump is a roller pump.

28. The adaptor pod of claim 23 further comprising:
means for processing an alarm signal received from the blood pump via the data line.

29. The adaptor pod of claim 28 further comprising:
means for encoding an alarm message that identifies a type of alarm and an address associated with the blood pump; and
means for broadcasting the alarm message over the communication network.

30. An adaptor pod for use in a medical perfusion system, wherein the medical perfusion system has a plurality of perfusion devices, including at least one blood condition sensing device, and a communication network that links each of the plurality of perfusion devices, the adaptor pod comprising:

a first connector for use in coupling the adaptor pod, through a data bus, to any one of a number of available connection points within the communication network;

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a second connector for use in coupling the adaptor pod to the blood parameter sensing device via a data line; and
means for receiving, over the data line, a blood parameter signal from the blood parameter sensing device.

31. The adaptor pod of claim 30 further comprising:
means for reading a numeric value conveyed in the blood parameter signal, wherein the numeric value represents a corresponding blood parameter.

32. The adaptor pod of claim 31 further comprising:
means for encoding a message that identifies the numeric value and a network address associated with the blood parameter sensing device; and
means for broadcasting the message over the communication network.

33. The adaptor pod of claim 32, wherein the numeric value represents blood flow.

34. The adaptor pod of claim 32, wherein the numeric value represents blood pressure.

35. The adaptor pod of claim 32, wherein the numeric value represents blood temperature.

36. The adaptor pod of claim 32, wherein the numeric value represents a blood flow occlusion.

37. The adaptor pod of claim 32, wherein the numeric value represents the presence of an air embolus.